Amendments to the Specification

Please replace each indicated paragraph with its following, respective rewritten paragraph:

Paragraph beginning at page 13, line 3:

Positioned either on or substantially parallel to the principal longitudinal axis (L) of the absorbent (66), is, optionally, a desired axis of flexure (F). A desired axis of flexure (F) (e.g. FIG. 7) generally runs in the longitudinal direction, *i.e.*, along the x direction, and may be off center from the principal longitudinal axis (L) a distance of no greater than about 10; alternatively, no greater than about 9; alternatively, no greater than about 8; alternatively, no greater than about 7; alternatively, no greater than about 6; alternatively, no greater than about 5; alternatively, no greater than about 4; alternatively, no greater than about 3; alternatively, no greater than about 2; or alternatively, no greater than about 1 mm. Desirably, a desired axis of flexure (F) is aligned along the principal longitudinal axis (L). A desired axis of flexure (F) typically minimally extends longitudinally no less than about 90; alternatively, no less than about 80; alternatively, no less than about 70; alternatively, no less than about 60; alternatively, no less than about 50; or alternatively, no less than about 40% of the maximum length (L_{max}) of the absorbent (66). A desired axis of flexure (F) typically extends longitudinally no greater than about 50; alternatively, no greater than about 60; alternatively, no greater than about 70; alternatively, no greater than about 80; alternatively, no greater than about 90; or alternatively, no greater than about 100% of the maximum length (L_{max}) of the absorbent (66). A desired axis of flexure (F) may result naturally from the dimensions, shape, and/or configuration of the absorbent (66), or the absorbent may be imparted with a weakened axis or region to create a desired axis of flexure. A desired axis of flexure (F) may also be formed by any of the techniques known to one of skill in the art, including, for example, scoring, pre-folding, slitting, embossing, or the like. Although a desired axis of flexure (F) is described herein as residing in the absorbent (66), one of skill in the art will readily appreciate that a desired axis of flexure may be formed in either the cover (62), the baffle (64) and/or the absorbent; the cover and the baffle; the cover and the absorbent; or the baffle and the absorbent. When present, a desired axis of flexure (F) typically allows an absorbent article (40) to be folded more easily prior to disposition within the vestibule (42) of a female wearer.

Paragraph beginning at page 15, line 12:

In response to these findings, ~~the present inventors continued their~~ research ~~and~~ found that in addition to considering the length and width of a labial pad, the surface area of a labial pad also plays a significant role in enhancing the comfort and fit of a labial pad disposed within a female wearer's vestibule. As part of ~~their~~ the research, ~~the inventors~~ it was determined that the effective surface area of the human female vestibule can be as small as about 275 mm^2, or even smaller depending on the female. In addition, the effective surface area of the human female vestibule can be as large as about 3,800 mm^2, or even larger depending on the female. Use of the phrase "effective surface area" with regard to a vestibule is intended to refer to that portion of the surface of the vestibule available for contact with absorbent articles similar to and including those described herein. Although there exists a great amount of variation in the effective surface area of the human female vestibule, ~~the inventors~~ it was determined that a significant number of human female vestibules have effective surface areas within the range of about 700 to about 3,100 mm^2. Believing that a single sized product would not effectively cover the entire range, ~~the inventors established~~ three ranges were established relative to the differing effective surface areas of female vestibules (42): from about 700 to about 1,700 mm^2; from about 1,700 to about 2,400 mm^2; and from about 2,400 to about 3,100 mm^2. Utilizing this information, ~~the inventors~~ it was found that by substantially matching the surface area of the upper surface of an absorbent (66) with the effective surface area of a female wearer's vestibule, the absorbent article demonstrates an improved efficacy at maintaining disposition within the vestibule (42) which results in the absorbent article providing better coverage of the vestibule (thus minimizing the potential for leakage) and enhanced comfort to the wearer. This is particularly significant when desiring to maintain disposition of the absorbent article within the vestibule of a female wearer absent the assistance of additional stay-in-place means such as, for example, strings, body adhesives, garment adhesives, belts, sanitary napkins, tampons, undergarments or the like.